

## DETAILED ACTION

### ***Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114***

A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after allowance or after an Office action under *Ex Parte Quayle*, 25 USPQ 74, 453 O.G. 213 (Comm'r Pat. 1935). Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, prosecution in this application has been reopened pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 11/14/2008 has been entered.

## EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with David T. DeZern (Reg. No. 60,117) on 1/26/2009.

The application has been amended as follows:

### **In the claims:**

In claim 60, line 5, after "input-output", change "apparatus" to --apparatuses--.

In claim 63, line 5, after "input-output", change "apparatus" to --apparatuses--.

### **REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE**

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The closest prior art of record, namely, Blair et al. (U.S. Patent 5,809,265), Sugiyama et al. (U.S. Patent 5,996,029) and/or Jackson et al "Methodology for Automated Printed Selection" IBM Technical Disclosure Bulletin, vol. 36, no. 09B (September 1993) pp. 379, do not disclose, teach or suggest, displaying, when any function has not yet been selected, on the layout image icons of the plurality of input-output apparatuses representing the functions of the plurality of the input-output apparatuses, while, when the one function has been selected, displaying on the layout image icons of the selected functions to represent only the input-output apparatuses that have the selected functions, as claimed in independent claim 60.

Independent claims 62, 63 and 73 recite the same or similar claim limitations or features as recited in independent claim 60 above. Therefore, independent claims 62, 63 and 73 are found to be allowable over the closest prior art of record mentioned above, for the same or similar reasons as stated and mentioned above in independent claim 60.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

***Conclusion***

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Dov Popovici whose telephone number is 571-272-4083. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Edward Coles can be reached on 571-272-7402. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Dov Popovici/  
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2625